means capable of automatically detecting beats per minute of the input audio

signal or a beat period of the input audio signal, changing said beats per minute or said

beat period by applying to the detected beats per minute or the detected beat period a

magnification increment designated by the magnification designating means, and

changing the tempo of the input audio signal in accordance with the changed beats per

minute or the changed beat period.

7.   (Currently Amended)   An audio signal processing apparatus which changes

the tempo of an input audio signal, said apparatus comprising:

a magnification designating device which designates a plurality of different

magnification increments, said different magnification increments being at least one of

1/n and n, wherein n is an integer;

a device which automatically detects beats per minute of the input audio signal or

a beat period of the input audio signal, changes said beats per minute or said beat

period by applying to the detected beats per minute or the detected beat period a

magnification increment designated by the magnification designating device, and

changes the tempo of the input audio signal in accordance with the changed beats per

minute or the changed beat period.

9.   (Currently Amended)   An audio signal as recited in claim 11, wherein said

plurality of different magnification increments include 1/4, 2, 3/4, 1/1, 2/1, and 4/1.

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10.   (Currently Amended)   An audio signal as recited in claim 14, wherein said plurality of different magnification increments include 1/4, 2, 3/4, 1/1, 2/1, and 4/1.

Please add the following new claims 11-16:

11.   (Currently Amended)   An audio signal as recited in Claim 1, wherein said plurality of different magnification increments are even multiples or even divisions of the detected beats per minute of the input audio signal.

12.   (New)   An audio signal as recited in Claim 11, wherein said plurality of different magnification increments automatically produce the changed tempo such that the changed tempo is synchronizable with the input audio signal.

13.   (New)   An audio signal as recited in Claim 1, wherein said beats per minute or said beat period is changed automatically based on the automatically detected beats per minute or a beat period of the input audio signal and the magnification increment designated.

14.   (New)   An audio signal as recited in Claim 7, wherein said plurality of different magnification increments are even multiples or even divisions of the detected beats per minute of the input audio signal.

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15. (New)   An audio signal as recited in Claim 14, wherein said plurality of different magnification increments automatically produce the changed tempo such that the changed tempo is synchronizable with the input audio signal.

16. (New)   An audio signal as recited in Claim 7, wherein said beats per minute or said beat period is changed automatically based on the automatically detected beats per minute or a beat period of the input audio signal and the magnification increment designated.--